

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal**

Section 1. General administrative information

Prevent Pollution Of Methow River

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9027

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
USDA Forest Service, Okanogan National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District

Business acronym (if appropriate) FS

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
Pacific Watershed Institute	2366 Eastlake Ave E, Suite 325	Seattle, WA 98102	Jeanette Smith
R.D. Merrill	17928 Highway 20	Mazama, WA 98833	Terry O'Reilly

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

Other planning document references.

Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 1989, Standard and Guidelines 13-2 and 13-3, page 4-45. Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range

of the Northern Spotted Owl, 1994, Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective #4, page B-11.

The Okanogan National Forest, Pacific Watershed Institute (a non-profit, 501C3 research and development institute), and R.D. Merrill (a corporate landowner holding property adjacent to Early Winters Creek) are working together to improve aquatic habitat in Early Winters Creek. Refer to Section 8 of this application for more information.

Subbasin.

Methow River Subbasin--Early Winters Creek

Short description.

Install a sealed-vault, concrete toilet in new campground loop.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
X	Anadromous fish	X	Construction	X	Watershed
*	Resident fish		O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research		Ecosystems
	Climate		Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other		Resource mgmt		Fish disease
			Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement		Wildlife habitat en-
			Acquisitions		hancement/restoration

Other keywords.

pollution, flooding

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
0	None	

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules***Objectives and tasks***

Obj	Task
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1,2,3	Objective	a,b,c	Task
1	prevent pollution of Early Winters Creek and Methow River	a	purchase sealed-vault toilets
2	construct toilets and toilet vaults that will remain intact in case of flooding	b	install sealed-vault toilets

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	4/1999	5/1999	85.00%
2	5/1999	6/1999	15.00%
			TOTAL 100.00%

Schedule constraints.

Extreme high water would delay the project start date

Completion date.

1999

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel		\$ 600
Fringe benefits		
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	1 sealed-vault toilets	\$12,000
Operations & maintenance		
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel		

Indirect costs		
Subcontracts	installation of toilets	\$2,000
Other		
TOTAL		\$14,600

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	\$ 0			
O&M as % of total				

Section 6. Abstract

The Early Winters Creek Campground is located on Early Winters Creek, a tributary of the Methow River. The campground is currently not meeting the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, so the Methow Valley Ranger District conducted an analysis (documented in an Environmental Assessment) to modify the campground. The modifications include designating a portion of the campground as a day-use area, with sites located outside the riparian reserve, and constructing a new campground loop well away from the riparian reserve. The new loop will replace the campsites lost in the day-use designation. The new loop is within the 100-year flood plain, so a sealed-vault toilet will be installed to insure that no waste would leak into Early Winters Creek in a flood. Early Winters Creek supports healthy populations of bull trout, summer steelhead, spring chinook salmon, and westslope cutthroat trout. The project will be completed in 1999, and monitored and evaluated by the Forest Service through regular maintenance and observations in the event of a flood.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

The Early Winters Campground is one of the most popular campgrounds on the Methow Valley Ranger District. It's a 13-unit campground right on Early Winters Creek. The site has a long history of use, including hunting camps used by the Methow Indians up into historic times (the 1920s and 30s). Camping continued on the site after euroamericans moved into the valley. The facilities and campsites were officially established in the 1960s, and have been maintained and upgraded since then.

Many of the campsites are within the riparian reserve, and do not meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives specified in the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan).

A watershed analysis was completed in June, 1996 for the Early Winters Creek Watershed. This analysis showed that Early Winters Creek supports a healthy population of bull trout, in addition to summer steelhead, spring chinook salmon, and westslope cutthroat trout. Stream survey data shows that the lower two miles of the creek are in an impaired condition compared to the rest of the stream. Stream survey data shows that this section of stream is below its potential for large wood, pools, width:depth, and riparian condition. This is due to many factors acting together, including bank erosion along the campground from human activities, loss of riparian vegetation, and potential contamination from the campground toilet. Other factors include; stream channelization and rip-rap to accommodate the highway bridge and at the old county road bridge site; channel dikeing to protect private land downstream of the highway bridge; stream channel clearing; loss of potential wood recruitment along portions of the campground, at the highway bridge site, and along private land; and little lateral channel migration in response to channel straightening and rip-rap.

Impaired habitat in Early Winters Creek is limited to this small section of the stream. The remainder of the creek is in relatively good condition. The major threats to fish and aquatic habitat overall in Early Winters Creek in the future are from sediment delivery from Highway 20, recreation impacts to riparian areas, and increased fishing pressure as human use in the area increases.

The Methow Valley Ranger District completed an analysis of the campground, and developed alternatives to modify the campground to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives. The District is in the process of consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service at this time, and expects to sign a Decision Notice in February 1998. The modifications that will be included in the decision are designating a portion of the campground as a day-use area, with sites pulled away from the edge of the creek, constructing a new campground loop to replace the sites lost in the day-use area, designating trails to control access to the creek. The new loop will be located away from the riparian area, but in the 100-year flood plain. A sealed-vault toilet will be installed in the new loop to prevent contamination of the creek in the event of a flood.

b. Proposal objectives.

1. Install a toilet facility in the Early Winters Campground that is not a possible pollution source.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

The Northwest Forest Plan (USDA, 1994) calls for the Forest Service to manage land to “maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems,” in its Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objective 4. (B-11)

PACFISH (USDA, February 1995) has riparian goals to maintain or restore:“(1)water quality to a degree that provides for stable and productive riparian and aquatic ecosystems;... (7) riparian and aquatic habitats necessary to foster the unique genetic fish stocks that evolved within the specific geo-climatic region and ...(8)habitat to support populations of well-distributed native and desired non-native plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate populations that contribute to the viability of riparian-dependent communities.”(pageC-4)

The September 10, 1996 ‘Return to the River--Restoration of Salmonid Fishes in the Columbia River Ecosystem’ report by the Independent Scientific Group states that “the most urgent priority for active intervention is to implement selected restoration measures necessary to prevent further ecological damage inrelatively intact areas.”.....” (p354) The Early Winters Creek is a relatively intact drainage: protecting it where development has taken place would be an excellent investment in a quality watershed.

d. Project history

This is a new project.

e. Methods.

The first step is to put in place pre-cast sealed-vault toilet, which will not be susceptible to flood damage and leaking.

This is already covered in an Environmental Assessment, with a Decision Notice expected in February, 1998. There is no risk to habitat during construction because the site is located well away from the riparian reserve.

The structure would be maintained and monitored by Forest Service employees as part of routine campground maintenance.

f. Facilities and equipment.

The sealed-vault toilet is a concrete structure with a sealed waste vault. The waste-collecting vault is located below ground level and is made of 4” thick concrete. The vault can hold up to 1,000 gallons of waste and is sloped so that waste will slide to the clean-out end. The building and vault are joined together by a single piece floor slab with holes for the toilet riser, clean out cover, and vent.

g. References.

Forest Service, Okanogan National Forest. 1989. (as amended) Land and Resource Management Plan (called Okanogan Forest Plan).

Forest Service, Okanogan National Forest. 1996. Early Winters Creek Watershed Analysis.

USDA, USDI. 1994. Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Ranger of the Northern Spotted Owl.

Independent Scientific Group. September, 1996. Return to the River; Restoration of Salmonid Fishes in the Columbia River Ecosystem; Development of an Alternative Conceptual Foundatin and Riview and Synthesis of Science underlying the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

In an effort to meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives, the Okanogan National Forest, Pacific Watershed Institute (a non-profit 501C3 research and development institute), and R.D. Merrill (corporate landowner holding property adjacent to Early Winters Creek) entered into a working agreement to modify the campground and improve instream fish habitat. The Methow Valley Ranger District conducted an analysis documented in the NEPA process to modify the campground to meet the ACS objectives. The Methow Valley Ranger District is consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Services now on the project, and expects to issue a Decision Notice in February.

Another analysis will be conducted this winter to determine and document restoration activities to the fish habitat in the impaired portion of Early Winters Creek. The Forest Service will lead the analysis and write the environmental document. Pacific Watershed Institute has applied for grant money from the BPA in 1998, and for Jobs For The Environment money for construction of the campground and completion of the instream work. R.D. Merrill will be contributing in-kind money to help complete the project.

One of the Forest Service's responsibilities in the campground/instream project is to secure funding for the sealed-vault toilet. Money for this toilet was not included in the Pacific Watershed Institute application for BPA or Jobs For The Environment money. The overall recreation budget is decreasing over time for the Okanogan National Forest, so there is no money to cover this cost with allocated dollars.

Section 9. Key personnel

Jennifer Klepach is the lead Forest Service employee on the project. She has a degree in Forest Management from Oregon State University. She has worked for the Forest Service for over 18 years. Most of her career has been in Environmental Coordination, leading interdisciplinary teams and writing environmental documents. She has also coordinated the recreation program on the Methow Valley Ranger District for the past year.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

The Early Winters Campground toilets will be in monitoring reports and watershed analyses routinely prepared by the Forest Service. The project will use proven technologies, so no technology transfer is expected as a result of this project.